

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for producing from one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I) of an amino acid represented by Formula (1): $\text{R-CH(NH}_2\text{)-COOH}$ (1), wherein R is defined in the specification, the other of the optical isomers (optical isomer II), said method comprising reacting a biological material which has an ability of converting said one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I) to said the other of the optical isomers (optical isomer II), the isomerism being on the basis of an assymetric carbon atom to which both of an amino group and a carboxyl group are bound and said ability being not inhibited seriously by an amino acid transferase inhibitor β -chloro-D-alanine, β -chloro-L-alanine or gabaculine, with said one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I).